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the sincerity of that desire." "I and all my countrymen," the Chancellor concluded, "unite in wishing that your labors be fruitful for all peoples."

Prince von Buelow's speech was warmly cheered, and its tone had a favorable effect on the *Boerse*, as indicating that the international political situation was tranquil. Three days before, in an interview with Sidney Whitman, the English political writer, the German Chancellor had said: "I can assure you that nobody of any sense or influence in Germany dreams of picking a quarrel with England; much less is there any such insane idea as that of invading England."

The Conference sent a telegram to Emperor William, in which they said: "The eight hundred members of the Interparliamentary Union permit themselves to offer to the Emperor their respectful homage, and at the same time to thank your Majesty for the energetic words uttered recently in favor of the maintenance in the future of the peace of the world."

On the second day the Emperor sent a response to the above telegram, thanking the members for their telegram of greeting, and concluding as follows: "I hope that your Conference will be effective in the preservation of the blessings of the world's peace, a matter which is especially close to my heart."

The principal business of the Conference was the consideration of the questions to be discussed at the third Hague Conference. Of these we shall hope to speak more in detail hereafter. Permanent committees from the different delegations were appointed to consider these questions. Among the resolutions introduced was one by Hon. Richard Bartholdt, president of the American group, urging that in any general treaty of arbitration which shall be entered into by the governments, the sovereignty of each of the nations shall be guaranteed.

It was decided that the permanent organization of the Union shall be maintained, as heretofore, with a paid secretary at Berne, Switzerland, until the Carnegie Peace Palace at The Hague is ready. A committee was appointed to consider the advisability of finally transferring the Bureau of the Union to The Hague. Among the interesting special events of the week was the announcement by the British delegation that hereafter the British government will contribute \$1,500 yearly to the support of the Union. The delegations from most of the other parliaments represented promised to seek similar subventions from their respective governments, and there is little doubt that they will get them.

The social side of the Conference was unusually prominent. The delegates dined together one evening. On the second day of the meeting they were given a reception by the Crown Prince Frederick William, on behalf

of the Emperor, in the Schloss. Ambassador Hill gave a luncheon to the American delegates and a number of other prominent Americans present in Berlin. At this luncheon addresses were made by Thomas J. O'Brien, American Ambassador to Japan, Rear Admiral Charles S. Cotton, U. S. N., Dr. Butler, president of Columbia University, Hon. Richard Bartholdt and Hon. L. P. Padgett, members of Congress. The Conference closed with a garden party given at his home by Chancellor Von Buelow.

On the whole, so far as can be gathered from the press dispatches, the Conference was most successful, being larger in number of delegates than any previous meeting held by the Union, and having brought the German government into more intimate and cordial relations with the international arbitration and peace movement than it has ever been before. It therefore marks an important and most encouraging advance toward the attainment of the permanent peace of the world, the end for which all the friends of peace are laboring.

Editorial Notes.

Conference on Exchange.

A good deal of interest has been awakened among diplomats and friends of international peace by the action of the Emperor of Germany and the King of Italy in asking for an international conference to consider the subject of international exchange. The government of The Netherlands, in response to this request of Germany and Italy, has issued invitations to all the nations which participated in the Hague Conference last year to join in a diplomatic conference of this nature, to meet at The Hague at a date to be agreed upon, possibly next year. So far as can be learned from the meagre details brought by the cable, the object of the proposed conference is to prepare the way for uniform legislation in regard to commercial drafts and exchange. The importance of such a conference, the dispatches from Washington say, was at once recognized by the officials of our government having to do with financial affairs. They pointed out, however, that because of the variations in the premium on gold in the different countries, the difficulties in the way of reaching a basis of agreement on the subject are numerous and perplexing. Even the layman in finance can easily comprehend that such a conference will be of very great value, not only in promoting better and simpler financial procedure among the different countries, but also in furthering the spirit of general concord, trust and friendly coöperation. It has been hinted from Europe that the conference when it meets may take up other subjects bearing upon the general peace of the world, but as yet there is little to justify such expectation. But

in any event it is a peace move, and we are glad that it was made by the Emperor of Germany. It begins to look as if peace moves were to become fashionable among crowned heads and presidents of states. That is a kind of rivalry to which the peacemakers of the world would raise no objection.

Kuropatkin's Revelations. It has been known all along that the war between Japan and Russia was brought on by Russian aggression in connection with the timber concessions on the Yalu river, and the alarm awakened thereby in Tokio lest the whole Japanese territory, after Korea, should ultimately fall under the power of Russia. But the full extent of this aggression, the cold, heartless, conscienceless character of the greed of certain Russians in high positions who were connected with it, have only just come to light. We print on another page an excellent editorial article taken from the London *Daily News*, which discusses this subject from the point of view of the revelations made by General Kuropatkin in the section of his "Suppressed Memoirs" published in *McClure's Magazine* last month and translated by George Kennan. We do not need to add any comment on what the *Daily News* says. We should, however, advise all our friends to get *McClure's* for September and read the whole section of the "Memoirs" there given. Inordinate greed and aggressive ambition have been the causes of many terrible wars in the past, but the pure, unmitigated selfishness of men, which rides rough-shod over others, never played a more conspicuous part in bringing on a conflict than in this case, if what Kuropatkin says of Bezobrazoff, Alexieff and others is to be taken at its face value.

Tolstoy at Eighty. Tolstoy continues to be the greatest moral force in Russia. The reason is clear. He is a great man intellectually, but not greater than many others. His courage is of the highest type, but he is not braver than many of his fellow-countrymen. The secret of his moral power is that he bases himself wholly on moral forces, and leaves no place for the unreason of violence. The consequence is that he has made himself practically immune from violence, and from his home at Yasnaya Polyana he continues to throw over the whole of Russia and the world his marvelous influence in behalf of justice, human rights and genuine human love and brotherhood. An effort was made by the officials of both church and state in Russia to prevent any general observance of his eightieth birthday. But in spite of this attempt, not only private but public honors were bestowed upon him in various parts of the empire, and it is probable that in the secret of men's hearts, where influence works its way in spite of all obstacles, the honor

that was shown him that day was greater and more widespread than was ever before given to any Russian. He will yet conquer Russia and deliver her from the elaborate system of despotism and oppression against which he has so long and so courageously uttered his voice. The day is drawing near when the Russian desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.

News from the Field.

The fourth Italian National Peace Congress was held at San Marino September 1st to 5th.

The official report of the Munich Peace Congress of 1907 has been published in French, and copies may be had at the office of the American Peace Society at forty cents per copy. Add five cents for postage.

On the initiation of the Baroness Von Suttner and Signor E. T. Moneta an Austro-Italian Committee has just been formed to promote an *entente cordiale* between Italy and Austro-Hungary. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of both countries have expressed their warm approval and sent their felicitations to the initiators of the committee. The secretaries of the committee are, for Austria, A. H. Fried (5 Wiederhoferstrasse, Vienna IX\2), and for Italy Dr. E. Giretti (Bricherasio, Italy).

The membership of the Peace Society of Southern California (branch of the American Peace Society), founded last spring, has, under the efficient and enthusiastic labors of Robert C. Root, the secretary (Severance Building, Los Angeles), already risen to one hundred and twenty-four, and promises soon to become double or treble that number. Mr. Root attended the State Convention of County and City Superintendents at Lake Tahoe the 14th to 18th of September, where he was given by the State Superintendent every opportunity to meet the superintendents personally and to have a display of peace literature. Mr. Root has since visited San Francisco and Berkeley, where he has conferred with local friends of the cause as to the early establishment of a branch society there.

In its ninth annual report, published in July, the Auckland (New Zealand) Branch of the International Arbitration and Peace Association gives interesting information of its work the past year. In addition to its annual meeting it has held two public meetings. It has taken action against conscription and compulsory military service. Its resolution urging the neutralization of the Pacific, or such portion of it as might be agreed upon, has been sent to the peace societies in different countries, and has met with general concurrence. It has used its influence with the schools of New Zealand and with the clergy and Sunday schools of Auckland in behalf of the cause of peace. It has held an essay competition for school children, the subject being "Heroes of Peace." It was represented by a delegate at the London Peace Congress. It has received and distributed considerable quantities of literature. The society has been in communication with other organizations in New Zealand and elsewhere, and has done what it could with its slender